

MASTER PLAN UPDATE

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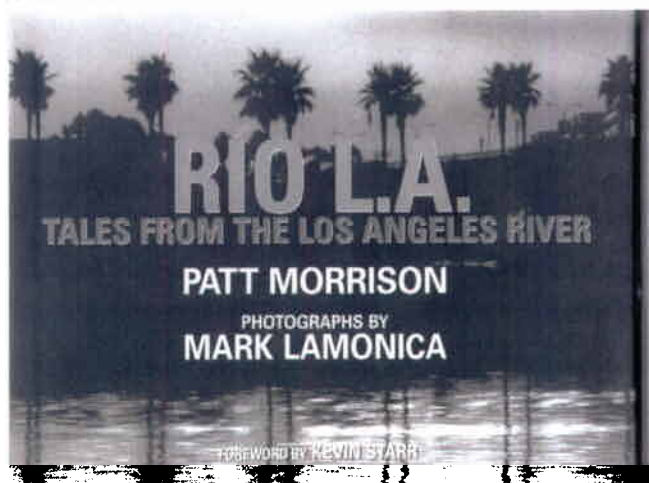
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RIO L.A.: Tales from the Los Angeles

On September 16, 2001, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy hosted a celebration for the publication of Rio L.A. Tales from the Los Angeles River. The author, Patt Morrison, and photographer, Mark LaMonica, were joined by other speakers that included Lewis MacAdams, founder of Friends of the Los Angeles River, and Kathleen Bullard, Executive Director of the River Center and Gardens. Patt Morrison read from her book, which gives tribute to the River while chastising mankind for the damage it has done to it. The book is not written in a chronological order of River events to tell the history of the River, but rather it identifies key people, catastrophes, and other events that have been impacted by the River. Overall, the witty Patt Morrison eloquently conveys her message about the power of the River and its relation to Angelenos. Mark LaMonica shared the meaning behind some of the

photographs in the book, in relation to his connection with the River and its "intimacy with human life." To better explain the River's "intimacy with human life," he referred to a two-page photograph of the Sepulveda Dam (pages 84-85) on which someone had written the words 'will you marry me' in hebrew. Morrison and LaMonica have both expressly related the River to Los Angeles, thus it is no wonder that the book will be made available at the LAX airport, for tourists to learn about one of Los Angeles' most important treasures.



Book Cover of Rio LA

2001 STATUS of the LARMP

June 13, 2001, marked 5 years since the adoption of the Los Angeles River Master Plan by the Board of Supervisors in 1996. Although no funding was allocated toward the Master Plan implementation in 1996, the Master Plan has succeeded in attracting \$40 million in River projects to date. Thus far, the funding has been secured from 1992 and 1996 County Proposition A, MTA Call for Projects, State Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program, 1996 City of Los Angeles Proposition K, Federal funding, County funding, 2000 Propositions 12 and 13, and private donations and community volunteer services.

The Advisory Committee continues to meet quarterly to review, plan, and seek funding for River projects. During this past year, the Advisory Committee has also worked on resolving issues related to mural projects and bringing awareness to the River. A Signage Subcommittee was organized to assist in the preparation of a signage manual, which will create a unique signage system for the River and tributaries. The manual is consistent with the Master Plan, which identified the need for a signage program that would facilitate connections between communities and recreational facilities while bringing awareness to the River. The Advisory Committee also worked on drafting new procedure guidelines for permitting artwork projects.

While River projects continue to be implemented, there continues to be outstanding issues related to maintenance and security. The Advisory Committee has begun to address these issues and formulate solutions. However, a combined effort from various resources will be required to ensure that the issues are resolved and the Master Plan continues to be implemented with success.



LOS ANGELES RIVER BIKE NEWS



FIRST ANNUAL LOS ANGELES RIVER RIDE

On Sunday, May 20, 2001, the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition held the first annual Los Angeles River Ride. Cyclists chose between riding a 2K around the Autry Museum area, a 40K to the River Center and back to the museum, or the very challenging 100K to Long Beach and back to the starting point. The event was supported by

KCAL9, FOX, Supervisors Don Knabe and Gloria Molina, Sparkletts, and other local sponsors. Celebrities, including Alexandra Paul from "Baywatch," attended to help kick off the ride and provide rewards to those completing the ride. Overall, the event proved to be a success with participation from approximately 800 cyclists of all ages.



Alex Baum with Richard Riordan (center) is joined by other public officials at the groundbreaking of the Baum Bicycle Bridge.

BAUM BICYCLE BRIDGE

On May 14, 2001, the City of Los Angeles held a groundbreaking event to celebrate the beginning of the construction of the Baum Bicycle Bridge over Los Feliz Boulevard. The project is estimated to cost \$1.6 million and is expected to be completed by July 2002. The bridge is being named after Alex Baum, who has been a dedicated advocate of bicycle planning for recreation and transportation use. Alex Baum's efforts have resulted in the formation of the City of Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee, which he has chaired since 1973. His accomplishments include assisting to bring the



1984 Olympic Games to the City, helping to introduce women's bicycle racing in the Olympics, and ensuring the construction of the Olympic Velodrome in Dominguez Hill and the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. Alex Baum continues to be very involved with bike-way planning in the City of Los Angeles and for the Los Angeles River.

PROPOSITION 204: Projects Underway

TUJUNGA WASH HYDRODYNAMIC STUDY

The River Project, with consultants WaterCycle and PWA, is undertaking the Tujunga Wash Hydrodynamic Study, which received \$86,000 in Proposition 204 funding through the California Coastal Conservancy. The study is to construct a hydrodynamic model of the Tujunga Wash system to be able to identify potential restoration opportunities. The study should result in

optimizing the use of the resources in the vicinity, such as the spreading grounds and gravel pits, for flood hazard mitigation, groundwater recharge, and other watershed management alternatives. Overall, the study should determine where the Tujunga Wash's natural process can be restored while considering the impacts to the environment and public safety. The study should be completed in early 2002. For further information, Melanie Winter of the River Project can be contacted at (818) 980-9660.

LOS ANGELES RIVER BIKEWAY GREENWAY PLANNING STUDY

North East Trees recently received a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy to develop a planning study of the 7-mile gap between the end of the River bikeway in Vernon and downtown Los Angeles, where a bikeway connection from the River bikeway in Glendale is currently being planned. North East Trees is working with Friends of the Los Angeles River and the Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition to assess the bikeway and greenway opportunities in the subject area. The study will result in facilitating the development of safe bikeway routes, and connections with the River, and identifying greenway opportunities. For further information, please contact Nishith Dhandha of North East Trees at (323) 441-8634.



SAMPLING OF TAYLOR YARD

The River Project received \$88,000 in Proposition 204 funding, from the California Coastal Conservancy to analyze the conditions of the Taylor Yard site. The consultant Miller Brooks Environmental, hired by the River Project, will evaluate and monitor surface and groundwater at Taylor Yard and review historical data to develop a baseline groundwater/surface flow model. The model will be used to determine the impacts to alternative uses, such as habitat and restored wetlands. The study should be completed by March 2002.



SOUTH GATE RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

North East Trees and the City of South Gate received a Proposition 204 grant to develop a restoration study of an 8.5 acre property below Imperial Highway on the west side of the Los Angeles River. All affected jurisdictions, including, Caltrans, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Army Corps of Engineers, and the City of Lynwood, are participating in the study as stakeholders. The study will present three alternatives that consider passive recreation, watershed management features, and habitat restoration opportunities. The most feasible alternative will be selected and construction documents will be prepared for the project. The study will be completed by the end of March 2002. For further information, please contact Jessica Hall-Valdes of North East Trees at (323) 441-8634.



LA RIVER AND TUJUNGA WASH RIGHT OF WAY MAPS

In 1999, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works developed right of way maps for the Los Angeles River and Tujunga Wash. The maps are comprised of aerial photography with right-of-way overlays, including parcel information. The maps have been used as planning tools for River projects. Public Works is looking into a marketing system to make the maps readily available. However, in the meantime, the maps are available through Public Works at a minimal cost of reproduction.



PROPOSITION A FUNDING For LAR Bikeway Improvements

North East Trees was recently awarded a \$250,000 Proposition A grant for a Los Angeles River Bikeway Improvement Project from the First Supervisorial District. The project proposes to install bicycle amenities, educational signage, and benches at selected locations along the Los Angeles River in the Glendale Narrows area. The project will also involve the installation of artistic safety fencing and landscaping with native wildflowers, trees, shrubs, and understory planting along the existing Greenway. This project will serve the local communities of Northeast Los Angeles: Atwater Village, Elysian Valley, and Silver Lake.

PROJECTS IN

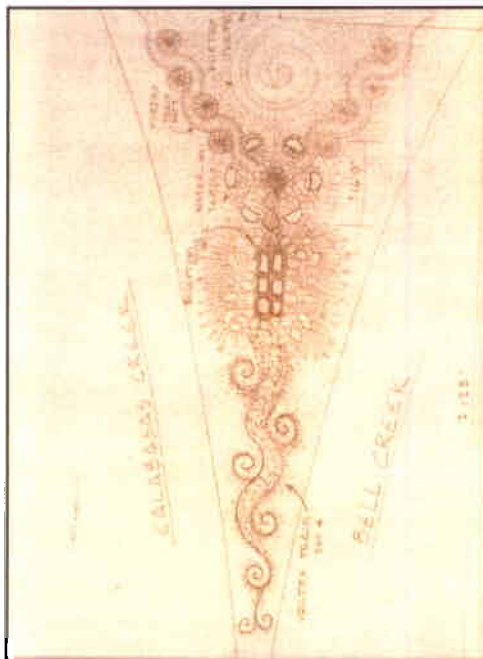
TUJUNGA WASH RESTORATION PROJECT

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority received funding from County Proposition A, Proposition 12, and the Department of Water Resources to develop an \$8.8 million restoration project in the Tujunga Wash. The project involves landscaping both sides of the Tujunga Wash, between Vanowen and Oxnard Streets, with native plants and a side stream. The stream will

receive water diverted from the Pa-coima Wash but will not be artificially watered during dry weather periods. The community was involved during the planning process and the design will incorporate the community's suggestions, such as wrought iron fencing, mature trees, no lighting, interpretive panels, and native landscaping. The project is expected to be completed by summer 2003.

LOS ANGELES RIVER WATER TEMPLE

Consistent with the Los Angeles River Master Plan, Gale Cohen, Director of the Los Angeles Theatre Works' Arts and Children Project, has received funding to organize a proposal for constructing an environmental sculpture at the River headwaters in Canoga Park. Artists Joel Mueller and Francisco Letelier guided at-risk youth from Phoenix House Academy and Central Juvenile Hall in the development of a 5'x3'x3' architectural model of the proposed sculpture. On September 5, 2001, an opening reception was held at the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center to display the model, which interprets the physical, cultural, and historic significance of the River. Gale Cohen continues to seek funding, sponsorship, and support to ensure the construction of the sculpture. She explains the importance of the project, which is "for youth to develop their talents and artistic abilities, as well as connect them with the natural, historic, and cultural value of the Los Angeles River and to expand their own sense of responsibility for preserving the natural treasures of our region. Finally, it's an opportunity for them to give something back to the community that will also serve as a proud personal legacy." For further information and to provide support for the project, please contact Gale Cohen at (310) 827-0889.



THE VALLEY

LOS ANGELES RIVER GREENWAY

LAUREL CANYON BOULEVARD TO RADFORD AVENUE

The River Project, with funding from Proposition 204, is well underway with the design of a greenway project, proposed on the south side of the River between Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Radford Avenue in Studio City. The groundbreaking for this project was held at the Fifth Annual Los Angeles River Earth Day. The River Project was instrumental in leading local Carpenter Avenue Elementary School students to develop design ideas for the project. The students' suggestions are being incorporated in the design documents and include decorative fencing and gates, native landscaping,

and a retaining wall in the shape of a snake. Supervisorial District 3, the Studio City Residents Association, and the community have been in support of the project, which is being funded by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. Public Works will develop construction documents, based on the River Project's design documents, and will construct the project by fall 2002. The completed project is expected to complement and coincide with the City of Los Angeles' Studio City Greenway project.



Earth Day 2001 site after plantings.

STUDIO CITY GREENWAY Whitsett Avenue to Laurel Canyon Boulevard

The City of Los Angeles received funding from Proposition K in 1996 to develop the Los Angeles River Greenway Project. The first phase of the project involved the development of conceptual plans for the River Greenway between Sepulveda Basin and Lankershim Boulevard. The City hired a landscape architect

firm, Nuvis, to complete the first phase of the project and bring community involvement through a Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee. In 2000, the conceptual plans were completed and the City began to complete the second phase of the project, the construction of a one-half mile landscape project between Whitsett Avenue and Laurel Canyon Boulevard. The construction documents are almost complete, and the project should be completed by fall 2002.



Sample of proposed sign with "heron" logo, to bring awareness to the River bike path.

SIGNAGE MANUAL

The Signage Manual for the Los Angeles River and tributaries is in the process of being finalized. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has been preparing the manual, at no cost, for the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works since spring 2001. A Signage Subcommittee was formed to assist the MRCA with the development of sign features for the various signs. The Subcommittee agreed on features, such as a color scheme and logo that would be unique to the River system. The Subcommittee will continue to be involved with the review of the draft manual. When complete, the manual will also be presented to the Los Angeles River Master Plan Advisory Committee for approval. The manual will be finalized by submitting it to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors for adoption as part of the Master Plan.





"Headwaters, The Los Angeles River, Confluence of Arroyo Calabasas & Bell Creek, Canoga Park",
Photo by John Humble, 2001.

THE LOS ANGELES RIVER: *51 Miles of Concrete*

While some are seeking to improve the aesthetics of the Los Angeles River with a greenway, photographer John Humble has been capturing its essential beauty and purpose. For the past 20 years, Humble has photographed all aspects of Los Angeles and his most recent photograph collection depicts the River as he sees it, "a purely modern construct, a perfect metaphor for the city itself." On October 27, 2001, Jan Kesner Gallery hosted an opening reception for Humble's River exhibition. The exhibition included photographs of the River confluence in Canoga Park, the Sepulveda Dam area, the mouth of the River in Long Beach, the River confluence with Arroyo Seco, and other views of the River as it passes through its 51-mile course. Overall, the photographs give tribute to the River, for its impacts on Los Angeles' history and culture.

Photo is courtesy of Jan Kessner Gallery.

TPL PURCHASES THE RIVER CORNFIELD

The Cornfield property, which is located between the River and Chinatown in downtown Los Angeles, is a potential site for a State park along the River. However, Majestic Realty Company had other plans for this 32-acre site and was hoping to construct an \$80 million industrial development until faced with a lawsuit from the Chinatown Yard Alliance. The Chinatown Yard Alliance is a coalition comprised of 35 local community and environmental groups, including Friends of the Los Angeles River, who envision the Cornfield to be developed into the first urban State park.

In March 2001, the Trust for Public Land (TPL), with the leadership of Governor Gray Davis, stepped in to assist and resolve the battle between Majestic Realty and the Chi-

natown Yard Alliance by proposing to purchase the Cornfield. TPL was instrumental in ensuring funding for the acquisition and development of the Cornfield. With the strong determination to create the first State park in an urban environment, Governor Gray Davis allotted funding in the 2001 budget and TPL will serve as the purchasing agent for the property. The State Department of Parks and Recreation will be responsible for the development and maintenance of the site. In addition, Senator Polanco recently proposed legislation to create the Cornfield State Park Advisory Committee to assist with planning the development of the Cornfield. This will allow the community to provide feedback and be involved in the development process.



Ralph Dills Park

EXPANSION OF RALPH DILLS PARK

The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy has approved \$1.5 million, from Proposition 13, for the expansion of Ralph Dills Park in the City of Paramount. The City will work to acquire properties, as they become available, to provide active recreation amenities. The River Project also received \$200,000 from Propo-

sition 13 to redesign the 10-acre park before expansion. The River Project will work with the community to redesign the park, which will include native landscaping and watershed management features. Both Proposition 13 grant applications will be finalized through the State Resources Agency.

Los Angeles River Master Plan RIVER FUNDING BULLETIN

Grantor	Purpose	Deadline	Contact
The Ittleson Foundation	Supports innovative pilot, model and demonstration projects that will help move individuals, communities, and organizations through environmental awareness to environmental activism.	April 1, 2002	http://www.ittlesonfoundation.org/
The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation	Supports programs that utilize youth in increasing awareness about the importance of green spaces and natural resources in Los Angeles.	Bi-annual	Deva Hirsch, Co-Director 3290 Northside Parkway, N.W., St.600 Atlanta, Georgia 30327 (404) 239-0600 http://www.blankfoundation.org/
The Lawrence Foundation	Supports nonprofits with interests in education, environment, and health.	Letter of Inquiry due: Feb. 1, 2002	Private Mail Box 481 2118 Wilshire Boulevard Santa Monica, CA 90403 (310) 828-0494 http://www.thelawrencefoundation.org/
K-mart Corporate Giving	K-mart fund for Kids contributes to nonprofit organizations that help children live happier, healthier lives.	Ongoing, reviewed monthly	Kmart Corporate Contributions Committee 3100 West Big Beaver Road Troy, MI 48064-3163 http://www.kmartcorp.com/corp/community/index.stm
Toyota USA Foundation	Supports programs that help people to improve the quality of life in their communities.	Ongoing	19001 South Western Avenue Torrance, CA 90509 (310) 468-6766 http://www.toyota.com/html/about/community_care/fund_guideline/index.html
Walmart Foundation	Supports environmental efforts, including the preservation of our natural resources.	Ongoing	http://www.walmartfoundation.org/wmstore/goodworks/scripts/index.jsp
Captain Planet Foundation	Supports hands-on environmental projects for children and youths to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities.	Ongoing	http://www.captainplanetfdn.org/

STATUS OF LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	COMPLETION DATE	PROPOSERS
COMPLETED PROJECTS			
Elysian Valley Gateway Park	Community Park development at Knox Ave. by the River Rangers	1996	SMMC
Ventura Boulevard Landscape	River landscaping on south bank at Ventura Blvd. and Kelsey St.	1996	Richard Deblasi, community resident
Rattlesnake Park	Development of pocket park featuring river rock walls, native landscaping, and benches adjacent to the Los Angeles River at Fletcher Drive.	1997	NET
1997 Earth Day Event	Tree planting along the River at Coldwater Canyon Avenue.	April 1997	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles
City of LA, Bikeway Phase 1A	Bikeway from Riverside Dr. to Los Feliz Boulevard.	September 1997	LADOT, MTA
LA River Greenway II	Tree planting and landscaping from Los Feliz Boulevard to Barclay St.	September 1997	NET, SMMC
Golden Shore Marine Reserve	A 5-year wetlands restoration demonstration project. The study will be completed in January 2003.	January 1998	City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Dept.
1998 Earth Day Event	Tree planting at Valleyheart Dr. off Whitsett Ave.	April 1998	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles
Zanja Madre Park	Development of park adjacent to River near Barclay Street.	Spring 1998	NET, MRCA
Amtrak Project	Fencing/hydroseeding Washington Boulevard to 4th Street.	1998	Amtrak
1999 Earth Day Event	River cleanup event in Elysian Valley (at NET's rattlesnake park) and a dedication of the Great Heron Gate at the Fletcher Dr. access to the River	April 1999	LACDPW, City of Los Angeles, FoLAR, USACE, others
Los Feliz Riverwalk	Installation and maintenance of walk from Sunnynook Dr. footbridge to Chevy Chase Dr.	July 1999	NET
LA River Center and Gardens	Development of 6.8 acres of former Lawry's Center into an interpretive center.	March 2000	MRCA
2000 Earth Day Event	50 sycamore and cottonwood tree planting on Wrigley Greenbelt on DeForest Ave. between Spring St. and Willow St.	April 2000	LACDPW, City of Long Beach
Steelhead park	Development of park adjacent to River and Oros St.	April 2000	NET, MRCA
Oso Park	Development of park at the corner of Riverside Dr. and Oros St.	April 2000	NET, MRCA
LA River County Bikeway Improvements	Bike trail improvements along Southern Ave., from Atlantic Blvd. to Southern Ave.	May 2000	LACDPW
Julia Russ Asmus Park	Development of park at Jaboneria St. and Shull St.	August 2000	City of Bell Gardens, TPL, MRCA
Southern Avenue Bikeway and Park	Bikeway improvements along Southern Ave., from Atlantic Blvd. to the River and development of park at the corner of Atlantic Blvd. And Southern Ave.	August 2000	City of Bell Gardens, TPL, MRCA
City of LA, Bikeway Phase 1-D	Bikeway from Los Feliz Blvd. to Fletcher Dr.	August 2000	LADOT, BSS, MTA

PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	COMPLETION DATE	PROPOSERS
COMPLETED PROJECTS			
La River Gateway Improvements	Enhancements to access points, including landscaping and amenities to the LA County Bikeway at Gage Ave. and Florence Ave.	November 2000	City of Bell
River Garden Park	Park depicting Los Angeles River at the River Center and Gardens.	November 2000	SMMC, MRCA
Water with Rocks Gates	Installation of decorative gates on the east side of the River, north of Fletcher Drive.	April 2001	NET
2001 Earth Day Event	Landscaping of south side of the River, between Laurel Canyon and Radford Avenue in Studio City	April 2001	LACDPW, SD3, SCRA, River Project
ADOPT-A-RIVER PROJECTS			
Ernie's Walk	Ernie LaMere landscaped and maintained a 1/4-mile section along the north side of the River in Sherman Oaks (between Kester and Cedros Avenues).	September 1992	Ernie LaMere, Community resident
Village Gardeners	The Village Gardeners landscaped and maintain both sides of the River between Fulton and Coldwater Canyon Avenues	1999	Village Gardeners
PROJECTS IN DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION			
Baum Bicycle Bridge	Construction of bikeway bridge over River at Los Feliz Boulevard		LADOT, MTA
Cesar Chavez Park	Development of a multiuse park in downtown Long Beach		City of Long Beach
Chinatown/Cornfields	Acquisition and development of 32-acre site into a State Park		TPL, State Dept. of Parks and Rec.
City of Glendale's Riverwalk	Development of a Riverwalk parkway.		City of Glendale
DeForest Study	Restoration study at DeForest Nature Center and at the 6th Street site in Long Beach		City of Long Beach
Dominguez Gap	Development of wetlands study.		LACDPW
LA River Greenway	Landscaping from Whitsett Avenue to Laurel Canyon		City of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation
LA River Greenway (Taylor Yard to Sunnynook)	Landscaping of a greenway from Taylor Yard to Sunnynook		DOT, DWP, NET
Laurel Canyon to Radford Landscaping Project	Landscaping of 1/4-mile stretch on south side of the River in Studio City.		LACDPW, SD3, River Project, SCRA
Maywood Riverfront Park	Development of a 7-acre park along the River at Slauson Ave.		City of Maywood, TPL
Outdoor Classrooms	Classrooms at LA River, Compton Creek, and Arroyo Seco.		MRCA
Paramount's River Murals	Two murals completed in spring 1999 and spring 2000 and a third is being proposed.		City of Paramount
South Gate Restoration Project	Study to determine restoration alternatives for the west side of the River, south of Imperial Hwy.		NET, City of South Gate
Taylor Yard Sampling	Sampling of Taylor Yard site, including preparation of groundwater/surface flow model.		River Project
Tujunga Wash Hydrodynamic Study	Hydrodynamic Study of Tujunga Wash for potential restoration sites.		River Project
Tujunga Wash Restoration	Restoration of Tujunga Wash between Vanowen Boulevard to Oxnard Boulevard		LACDPW, MRCA, SD3

